

# World Literature

Midterm Spring 2009

Due on or before April 14, 2009

1. Select and read a book that relates to the region of the world that you researched.

2. Include the following on a single cover page:

Title, author's name, genre, number of pages, a **brief** summary of no more than 5 sentences, your name, date

3. Choose ONE of the following essay options. Write 2-3 pages with appropriate organization and substantial content development. Option A may include first person statements; options B and C should be written in third person.

A. Reader response

Consider your reactions as you read. How does the reader create meaning from the work?

How are universal human experiences portrayed? What did you learn about the country, culture or citizens of this region that you did not know before? What surprised or inspired you? What values are conveyed and how does the reader interact with those?

B. Focus on historical context, and/or culture

Consider the historical context for this novel? What events that shaped this country or region's history are depicted? If historical characters are involved, are they portrayed accurately? Does the author seem to slant his or her perspective in favor of one side or the other regarding the historical or cultural events? What cultural upheavals or conditions may have inspired this book? What cultural influences dictated understanding of this work at the time it was created?

C. Focus on author

Consider the author's background and knowledge of the topic. Did he or she have first hand experience related to the plot or characters? What was the setting when this work was inspired or written? For what meaning did the author strive? If you've read more than one of this author's books, how has the author's work evolved from earlier works to later works? Is there continuity in theme throughout his or her books?